



Arubans in Holland can cheer the King thanks to CMB Bank

One of the great triumphs of this past Carnival season was the taking of the twin crowns as Roadmarch King and Calypso King by Mighty Talent, better known the rest of the year as Claudius Phillips. Carnival 52 was not the first time this talented performer and composer has taken both titles, but this year will be the first time he will travel to Holland accompanied by all his band members to perform for expatriated Arubans that live there. Claudius alone has appeared during the Aruba Dag celebrations held in Holland in conjunction with Himno y Bandera Day in the past, but thanks to the sponsorship of the Caribbean Mercantile Bank he will be joined this year by his singers Diane “Lady Eyes” Emerencia, Jarino, and every band member of his group Oreó.

Such a large group needs quite a large ticket, which was presented to Claudius on Thursday morning at the CMB bank in downtown Oranjestad. Cisco Quant, assistant to Director of CMB and Assistant Managing Director Rina Solognier-Croeze presented him with his passage, and Aruba’s Minister Plenipotentiary, the honorable Wilfredo Croes, via conference call live from Holland, offered congratulations and expressed his pride and pleasure at the aspect of seeing Claudius in person very soon.

Claudius himself expressed how moved he was at this generous gesture of the CMB bank, and how much he is looking forward to performing before all the Arubans that are far from home, nostalgic for their carnival and the music that is so much a part of their lives. “This is what we really perform and write the music for,” he expressed “this is the heart of why we do what we do. Being in Holland, with our fellow countrymen and other Antilleans, we see how much they miss their island and the spirit and tradition of Carnival. They are so happy and grateful to see us there, performing live the music that is so much a part of them, and this is a reward beyond any money earned, this is why we love what we do, events like this are what motivates us.” Claudius reports that they expect to perform before an audience of eight or nine thousand.

Himno y Bandera day is on March 18th, but Aruba Dag and the concert will take place on Sunday, March 12th in Leyden. The CMB bank feels that the twentieth anniversary of the introduction of the very successful CMB Bancomatico Card, coinciding with Aruba’s twentieth anniversary of Staus Aparte, is an appropriate reason to give this gift to Arubans far from home. The CMB Bancomatico Card has been an extremely helpful tool for many young Arubans studying in Holland, allowing their parents to provide funds for them in a convenient manner. Caribbean Mercantile Bank feels strong ties to the Aruban community here on the island and away from home, and is proud to provide this very special treat for those that could not be in Aruba to enjoy the Carnival this year.